A True and Faithful

TESTIMONY

CONCERNING

John Samm,

The Servant of the

LORD,

Who finiſhed his Courſe, by laying down his life in

NORTHAMPTON GOAL,

FOR THE

TRUTH of *JESUS,*

The 26th of the 1ſt. Month, 1664.

Written by *John Crook*, who had perfect knowledge of him from the beginning.

With an Exhortation unto all the Righteous, to be watchful, to take due notice of all the dealings of the Lord, eſpecially of his taking away (of late) ſo many faithful Labourers in his Work; and to you principally in the Counties of *Bedfordſhire*, (where his outward dwelling was) *Bucks*, *Hertford*, *Cambridge*, *Huntington*, *Ely*, and *Northampton*, is this Teſtimony ſent, who have partaked of his Miniſtry, and been refreſhed with the ſtreams of Life, that often run through him among you, to whom my Soul ſendeth Greeting, and wiſheth unto you all Love, Life, Mercy, and Peace. *Amen.*

LONDON, Printed in the Year, 1664.

A True and Faithful Teſtimony concerning *John Samm*, the Servant of the Lord, who finiſhed his Courſe, by laying down his life in *Northampton* Goal, for the Truth of *Jeſus*, the 26. of the 1ſt. *Month*, 1664.

DEarly Beloved of the Lord, although many of you are not ignorant of the departure of *John Samm*, out of the body, and for what cauſe he was in outward bonds, (which was for meeting with the ſervants of the Lord) and what his Life and Converſation was, together with the Miniſtry committed to him by the Lord, as well as his faithful diſcharge thereof, is well known unto you; and I might be ſilent if this were the only end, to tell you of theſe things; for is there ſuch a ſtranger in Iſrael, among you all, as knows them not: But notwithſtanding, I have a Teſtimony in my heart from the Lord on this behalf, and do deſire it may find acceptance with you, to ſtirre up your pure minds, to be ſenſible of all the Lords dealings with you in your own particulars, and alſo of his providences and diſpoſings of thoſe, that are near and dear unto you all, as I know this Servant of the Lord *J. S.* was, unto all that throughly knew him, and had inward acquaintance with him.

For his Education, it is well known in *Bedfordſhire* where he dwelt; as alſo his Converſation, which was juſt and honeſt among men, before he was convinced of the Truth; for the ſake of which he ſuffered five or ſix times Impriſonment ſeveral times together, for bearing teſtimony to the ſame Truth which at laſt he ſealed with his life in *Northampton* Goal,

where he first suffered *Imprisonment*, about the year 1656, in which prison he ended his dayes, as he foretold, saying, *Northampton* was the first, and will be the last.

For his Life and Conversation, *I* can speak to it, for *I* was perfectly acquainted with him, both outwardly as a man, and inwardly as a Christian; as a man, he was endowed with a competent measure of understanding, and did improve it, unto that end (in the managing of the Creation) for which it was given him; being discrete, sober, and of good report among men, and his carriage courteous and loving unto all; much more might be said of this nature which *I* omit.

And as a Christian, he was holy and harmless, patient and meek, valiant and bold, contending earnestly for the faith which was once delivered to the Saints, and in which he himself as a Saint, did walk, live and dye: Christianity to him, was not a talk, but a life; for rather then he would deny it, he suffered loss of Estate, Liberty, and Life it self, as he did: Witness his often *Imprisonment*, and his laying down his life at last for the same Cause.

As a Minister, he had a dispensation of the Gospel committed unto him, in which he was a faithful labourer in the work thereof, with great zeal and fervency of Spirit, taking all opportunities and occasions in the wisdom of the Lord, (as moved by him) to deliver his message unto all people, of all estates and degrees, that he might be free from the blood of all men.

His gift was large, his utterance plain to be understood, his words savoury and powerful, not painted with mans wisdom, but as given him of the Lord, being often spoken with great Majesty, and in much Authority, cutting deep to the wounding of the wicked one in man, and easing of the poor and needy prisoner, being often mindful of the Captive Daughter of *Sion*, as of the pure Seed in deep Captivity, that he might reach it help; and when his words began to reach it, he was as one transported with joy; and when it was once raised and come forth of the prison house, the Song of *Moses* and of the Lamb was in his mouth, with much joy and great gladness of heart, unto the astonishment of the wicked, and filling the

hearts

hearts of the righteous with great joy, through the overflowings of his Cup, and superaboundings of Gods love in his heart; sometimes as one taken out of the body; in which state his eyes would sparkle, and his face be full of dread, as one having authority, and not as the Scribes: Besides the melody of his voice, sometimes sounding out the high praises of the God of *Israel*, and at other times the blessed state of the righteous, as they stood in Union with the living God, and one with another. Oh how have *I* seen him make the earth to tremble, and the hearts of the upright to overflow with joy and gladness, through that abundance of life that hath run through his Vessel unto the forcing of water out of the Rocks, and tears out of the eyes of the Saints, unto great abundance: His Hymnes and Sounds, sometimes were as flames of fire, consuming the drossy matter, and at other times as Swords and Spears, cutting down, and thrusting through the tall Cedars, and lofty Oaks, and wild Beasts of the wilderness: Procuring an Eccho to the true Seed in the living babes, which often made sweet melody in their Assemblies, when but few words were spoken by him:

Methinks *I* hear his Instrument still sound,
Making the hearts of the just to abound
With living praises to the God of Heaven,
Without one jarring string or voice un-even:
Though this seems strange to those that dwell below,
Yet what *I* speak, *I* feel and well do know;
And look for more to be brought forth ere long,
In those that yet are learning the Lambs song.

An Exhortation unto all the Righteous, especially those that were partakers of *John Samms* Ministry.

Did *Joseph* seek a place where to weep over *Benjamin* his Brother, though yet alive? And can ye, Oh ye Sons and Daughters of *Joseph*, refrain from mourning for the loss of a Father to many children, whom he had begotten in the Lord?

Lord? And is there a time when the true Embaſſador of Peace may weep bitterly? Oh can it be more ſeaſonable at any time, then when the Lord takes away the Righteous from the evil to come? And hath he not done ſo to many Valiants of late, whoſe Trumpets Alarm'd the World, and made many dead to ariſe at the ſound thereof? What was the cauſe, and wherefore the Lord hath done it, becomes every one to make enquiery in their own hearts; and the rather, becauſe there is need, yea great need, of Valiants in this day, the Harveſt being great, and the Labourers few. And why the Lord ſhould leſſen the number, ſeems to challenge a diligent enquiery, at every ones hand, to find out the cauſe thereof; And let me ſtir ye up, oh all ye that love the Lord, to ſearch every own his own heart with the light of Jeſus; And for this, let my Harp alſo be turned to mournings, and my Organ into the voice of them that weep; For indeed I will tell you, oh ye Children of my Father, my Soul hath deeply conſidered this matter; And I have this Anſwer, the Lord will do what pleaſeth him, with the Inſtruments of his chooſing, and who hath been his Counſellor? He will raiſe up, and lay a ſide at pleaſure; for he will have no Idols of jealouſie in this his day, leaſt it come to paſs, as when he made the brazen Serpent, a *Nehuſhtan*: Neither will he have his work neglected, nor his Servants ſlighted, whom he ſends forth in Life and Power; He would have his People to wait upon him, in their own meaſures, every one as they have received, in it to keep cloſe unto him, that they all may be taught of him, and have the rejoycings in themſelves, and not in another: And the Lord will yet raiſe up Inſtruments to fulfil his purpoſe, for his work ſhall proſper; and by all theſe wayes and dealings of his, he would have his Childrens Hearts made looſe to all things under the Sun, with their Lamps burning, and lights ſhining, having the loyns of their minds girt about with the Girdle of Truth; keeping cloſe unto the Lord with a pure heart, that he may yet further make known unto them his mind and will; for although you are now become the Sons of God, it doth not yet appear what ye ſhall be; but this know, the more and oftner ye ſee him, the liker to him ye ſhall be; and let this be

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your care, that he may be alwayes before you, that you may not be moved: And my dear friends, keep low in your minds, and delight to be often in the deeps with God: Oh watch, *I* even beſeech you all as dear Brethren, that by the Lords taking away of his Servants of late, that have been bleſſed Inſtruments in his hands, you may come the nearer unto that Teacher, and hear his voice daily, which cannot be removed into a corner; that ye may all ſay in truth of heart, we are come unto that Miniſtry which cannot be taken away by reaſon of death; Oh that you may all feel more of this Miniſtry in your Aſſemblies daily, and keep in that ſeed of life, where you live with the ſpirits of thoſe juſt men, whoſe bodies are removed from you: Indeed *I* feel, *I* feel the Lord mightily at work in this his day, be but ſtill, and you will ſee his wonders in the dayes paſt: Let love abound among you as at the beginning, and be pure and clean in heart, and you will ſee by all Gods dealings, what he aims at, which is certainly, to raiſe up his own life in you all, over all the world, unto his own praiſe, and your joy for ever: And all you that are ſenſible of the taking away of dear *J. S.* as being often refreſhed by his life, and comforted through his Miniſtry, ſink ye down, ſink ye down into the fountaine, from whence he hath all his ſupplies, and drink ye of the ſame, bleſſing the Lord that the fountaine is in Chriſt the promiſed Seed, unto whom feel your daily acceſs: Oh ye beloved of the Lord, and ſay in your hearts with my ſoul, O God, it is enough that we have thy ſelf to go unto, and that we can in thy life enjoy communion with the ſpirits of the juſt ones; And lift up your heads over all the world, and be not diſmayed with any amazement, either inward or outward, for your Redeemer lives, and your Ranſomer will not tarry; and you that are full of ſorrow, by reaſon of your temptations and tryals, which are many, and that your own ſtrength is ſo ſmall; *I* ſay unto you all, lift up your heads: For you that cannot live without Chriſt, but feel your daily need of him, He will not, not, not, leave you nor forſake you, for thou art the true heir of him, that cannot live without him, to thee he will come, and will not tarry; and in the mean time, as a good Souldier endure

dure the hardſhip: It is but yet a little while, and he will appear without ſin unto thy ſouls Salvation: For *I* feel thee, and do travail for thee.

Oh thou well beloved! how are my cries unto my God for thee, who laments in thy ſpirit for want of the Lord, and can hardly be perſwaded of his love to thee; thou art ſo uncomely in thine own eyes, and thou lookeſt upon his dealings, both within, in thy Spirit, and without, in his taking away thoſe inſtruments whom thou loveſt, and by whom thou waſt refreſhed, as being in wrath againſt thee, and for thy ſake: Well *I* know thee, and am to teſtifie unto thee, in mine and thy Fathers Name, that he doth behold thee, and his eyes do pity thee, and he is waiting to be gratious unto thee, that in an acceptable time he may commend his love unto thee, and thy Salvation is ſure; Oh thou traveling Soul, and *I* could even put my Soul in thy Souls ſtead to eaſe thee a little.

Well, my cries are for thee, and it is prayed that thy faith fail not; So unto our God give up, and when thou art ſinking as to the bottome of ſorrow, there is a hand to ſupport thee, and thou wilt feel it in the loweſt dungeon, and darkeſt deep. Be thou ſtill, and my God will be thy Interpreter, to let the ſee, know, and underſtand thy ſtate and condition; with whom *I* leave thee, in that boſome where *Lazarus* dwels ſafely, and at reſt, when *Dives* is tormented, and hath not one drop of that mercy with which thou art filled, to the praiſe of our God for ever. Amen.

The free flowings forth of my pure ſoul to *J. S.* whoſe Deceaſe I do condole as followeth.

OH thou Valiant, was thy time ſo bounded,
That death had no power (till thou had ſounded?)
To ſtop thy voice, or hinder thy ſweet life,
From throughly conquering black envyes ſtrife:
Well, well, It is enough what thou haſt done,
Who in thy day with patience did runne

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The race of the nobly deſcended,
And would not be ſtopt till life was ended:
What? Shall I ſpeak thy commendation,
Or tell thy loſs by lamentation;
To neglect the firſt, ſeems to injure thee,
And to paſs by the laſt is ſo to me,
As well as to many brethren more,
Who for thee can ſcarſe refraine to weep ſore;
So then I muſt ſpeak ſomething to thy fame,
Who as a Miniſter waſt made a flame,
To kindle the ſparke that in Ember lay
Rak't up all night, in dark until the day;
Whoſe light ſhin'd clearly in thy holy breſt,
As all that knew thee well muſt needs atteſt,
As I my ſelf (for one) can truly ſay,
That light in thee ſhin'd clear as perfect day,
To the enlightning many with thy ſunne,
Whoſe feet before in darkneſs faſt had runne;
For who could withſtand thy life, Oh dear John!
And not to thy words bow, or elſe be gone;
So powerful at times was thy ſweet voice,
That to be in thy preſence was my choice;
And beſides thy comforting of them that mourn'd,
Many from darkneſs, to day-light was turn'd;
All ſorts of men by thee received good,
For thou waſt waſh't from ſinne, with Jeſus blood;
Which made thy Journy Peace, and thy end gaine,
In deſpight of death, and all outward paine,
Which was not a little in that noyſome place,
But that life over all did thee embrace;
While thou liv'd, thy life made many tremble,
And in thy death, who can thee reſemble?
Both for the patience which in thee dwelt,
As alſo for thoſe ſounds which many felt,

Flow from thee, like ſweet ſtreams of quickning life,
Which often in others have ceaſed ſtrife;
And made great Babylon to tremble ſore,
As well as the Scarlet and painted Whore,
Againſt whom he warr'd as a valiant man,
And did not ceaſe till his ſtrength was gone;
Which laſted till his breath began to faile,
For while he had any, he would not vaile,
But kept his ground, and ſtoutly made it good,
And ſeal'd at laſt, the conqueſt with his blood;
In that priſon, where he at firſt was caſt
For the ſame cauſe, for which he breath'd his laſt:
Oh dear John, *while I'm ſpeaking of thy praiſe,*
I am as one dazled with the bright rayes
Of that heavenly glory which Crowns thy ſoul,
From whence I cannot get thee to condole,
But a voice within me cryes, Be thou gone
Out of thy veſſel, and wear the ſame Crowne;
Well I come, O God, with what ſpeed I may,
Help me to finiſh the work of my day;
For haſte I do, with all my ſtrength and might,
Out of this houſe of clay to take my flight:
I come, I come, my work is almoſt done,
It's finiſht ſo ſoon as this ſtorm is gone;
Let the winds blow loud, and rain fall hard,
And the Seas roar, and waters ſwell a pace,
But thy great works O God do not retard,
Till thou become thy peoples dwelling place;
Let Judas *do with ſpeed, what he's to doe,*
That true friends may be known from deadly foe;
And thy Jewels made up in ſight of all,
And that they which four thee, no more may fall;
But that the holy, may be holy ſtill,
And no deſtroyer on all thy holy Hill:

But whither am I going in ſuch haſte?
Is th' bleſſed day at hand for this great feaſt?
Methinks my heart is filled with great joy
To behold this good day ſo very nigh.
While many like the Prophets ſervant ſay,
With us it's night, but with the enemies day;
That's becauſe, the eyes not opened to ſee
Jehovahs ſtrength, which is greater for me
Then all the world, or death and hell beſide,
Which to them is known that in light abide;
Times and ſeaſons are in the Fathers hand,
And let them fear who build upon the ſand:
But my ſoul ſees the work already done,
Which is the throwing down of Babylon
The great, into woe, grief, and conſtant paine,
There to lye, and never to riſe again;
How can I now any longer withhold,
From condoling for him, that was ſo bold
To bear his teſtimony for the Lord
Againſt Babylons wayes, by him abhorr'd;
Who like Davids *worthies, brake through the hoſt*
To refreſh the thirſty, and find the loſt,
And ſuch a one was he of whom I ſpeak,
Let the ſence of Truths great loſs, your hearts break;
For many ſuch Souldiers are not behind,
Whoſe eaſe, eſtate, and life, could not him bind
From ventring all in Gods righteous cauſe,
Unto the end for which he valiant was,
In liberty, in bonds, in life, in death:
Oh how faithful was he until laſt breath;
He ſtood faſt 'gainſt all that did gainſay,
None being able to turn his mind away;
Saying often from his heart, in true love,
And zeal unto Gods wayes, and pretious dove;

(Meaning the Seed alone without a mate,)
Mind the poor and needy in all your breſts,
Which mourns alone, while crafty ſouls have neſts;
And foxes have their holes to hide their heads,
It often wak't when others ſlept in beds;
His care was ſtill, that it might live and raign,
That nothing might it's Fathers love reſtrain;
Was not this that love the Lambs ought to have
From true Paſtors, who ſeek their ſheep to ſave;
Yes, yes, and ſuch are after Gods own heart,
That to ſave the ſheep, they would feel the ſmart;
Methinks I feel his life, and hear his hymne;
Heark, heark, doth it not make the babe to ſinge,
In thoſe that remember his dwelling place?
Waſt not in great peace over all diſgrace?
Heeding nothing more then to be with God,
As his dwelling place from all ſtroke and rod;
Well, haſt ye thither, all ye choſen Flock,
That ye may dwell with him on Sions Rock;
In the dear Seed, where ſtill he lives with you
In that union, where they are no more two,
But one with him, and me, and all in life,
And ſo your loſs is gain, and end of ſtrife;
Unto which life with him, God bring us all,
Where the loſs is repair'd to great and ſmall.
Well dear John, *with thee is my ſoul at reſt,*
For now I feel thou dwelleſt within my breſt;
Feel ye the ſame, ye deareſt Lambs of love,
For he's a mate to thee thou loanſome Dove;
And ye ſweet children of your father dear,
Both inward and outward be of good chear;
Your Father lives, and ſo ſhall do for aye,
Let his Counſel be embrac't, and obey;

So ſhall all be made up in ſafety and peace,
With ſweet gaine to your ſouls, and good encreaſe,
Where our home is, who dwell and reſt in life
Far from all ſorrow, out of all bate and ſtrife
In one houſe, where we all have our bread ſure;
Feed, feed ye babes, for it will ſtill endure:
Farewel dear babes, and with our Father dwell
At home in God, with us, in ſpight of hell.
And thus to him, and you, I have paid my debt,
And to all the upright that with us met;
I take my leave, and reſt in that, Amen,
After whom, the juſt cryes, how long? when, when?

By *John Crook*, now Priſoner in *Ipſwich* Town-Goal for the ſame cauſe, for which dear *J. S.* layed down his life; written the 7th of the 2d. *Month*, 1664.

FRiends in the Counties before-mentioned, or where this may come, This is my Teſtimony which I had in my heart to bear for that faithful man John Samm, who was a Miniſter and ſufferer for the Truth of Jeſus, who hath now finiſhed his Teſtimony in faithfulneſs, a priſoner in Northampton; by me who for ſome years have had a right knowledge of him, and his integrity and faithfulneſs to Gods eternal Truth, of which he was made partaker: He was a man of a ſound mind, and of an upright heart, a lover of righteouſneſs, and hating iniquity; Him the Lord was pleaſed to chooſe, with the firſt in the County of Bedford, who made him ſenſible of the living word in his heart, by which the Lord brought him to know the work of Redemption, who Redeemed him out

out of the worlds wayes and worships, and brought him to Truth in the inward parts, which truth he knew to be powerful, which set him free from much which did entangle him, and feeling the power of it, the Lord chose him to bear testimony in words unto it, which he received not of man, nor by man, but of the free gift from the Lord, and when he had received it, to wit, the Truth in the inward parts, and his mind to it turned, then did he feel the sweet streams of the Lords love to his thirsty soul, by which his heart was often filled with joy and great rejoycing; and also the Lord in the strength of his Love, and in the sense of the living vertue of his life, did open his mouth in praises to the Lord, to the great refreshment and comfort of his children, who were begotten by the same word of power unto the feeling of the life by which he was filled; many times as a Cup that overflowes: and a good understanding had the Lord given him of the mysteries of his Kingdom, and of those things which he had heard, learned, and received of the Lord in the light of his Son, that did he faithfully communicate unto others, in the demonstration of the Spirit of God, in season, and out of season, without respect of time, place, or person; yea, prosperous was he made in the hand of the Lord, to the convincing of many in the Counties where he travelled, and to the turning of many from darkness to light, from Sathans power to God; and a good instrument (he was) of comfort to the tempted ones, and a refresher of the weak ones, and a confirmer of the tender hearted in that present Truth which they had received; and these words would run through him often, saying on this wise, As every one hath received Christ the Light, so let him walk in it: And he was also a man full of love, and very zealous for the Lord, but not without knowledge; for a living sense he had of the heavenly power of God, by which he was filled many times, as with new Wine; and would often say, Who is able to containe of this heavenly Vertue, and not praise the Name of the Lord: And the Lord, his Truth and People, was dear unto him, for whose sakes he often suffered Imprisonment, and spoyling of his goods; and did rather choose to suffer affliction upon Truths account,

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with the people of the Lord, then to enjoy the pleaſures of this life for a ſeaſon; or ſinne againſt the light of Chriſt Jeſus, which did ſhine in his heart, and give him the knowledge of the Glory that's Eternal; for the enjoyment of which, this world and it's glory, was of little value to him; and both in priſon, and out of priſon, the Lord did accompany him with his heavenly preſence, and many times fill him with the vertue of his life, by which his heart was engaged to the Lord. Theſe things I can boldly ſpeak of him, having a right knowledge of him, being once caſt into priſon with him, becauſe we could not break the command of Chriſt, in ſinning againſt his Light, which ſayed in us, Swear not at all, according as is recorded in the Scriptures of Truth; for which at that time we ſuffered eighteen weeks Impriſonment, with many more of the ſervants of the Lord, who kept the Commandments of God, and had the Teſtimony of Jeſus; and our hearts was knit together, even as Jonathans was to David; and as Iron ſharpeneth Iron, ſo did the Lord by the manifeſtation of his love and life in our hearts, cauſe us often to refreſh each other. Well, what might I ſpeak my Friends, in Truth, of our deceaſed Brother, who fainted not unto the end, who hath now finiſhed his Courſe, and made not Shipwrack of Faith and a good Conſcience, but hath kept the Faith, and in it is fallen aſleep; and now his bodily preſence we here no more ſhall ſee, but his life is amongſt us, and is felt with the faithful; for while it was conteined in that narrow compaſs, he would often ſay, There's no ſtraitneſs in the Lord, but the ſtraitneſs is of man: And he would ſay, How doth one drop from the preſence of the Lord, cauſe the Cup to overflow; ſaying, Who is able to containe of the exellent ſtreams of Life, and not praiſe the living God. O Friends, amongſt whom he traveled, feel his life among you, and remember his labour of love, for the labour of the Righteous tendeth to life; and for this end did he travail, labour, and ſuffer to death, as a valiant in *Iſrael*, that many might be made partakers of the like pretious faith, which he knew to overcome and to give victory, and to preſerve him to the Lord, that ſo being made partakers of the riches of Gods grace, rejoycing in themſelves, they might witneſs this was the earneſt deſire of his Soul; ſurely

ſurely the memorial of the Righteous ſhall be had in everlaſting remembrance, but the name of the wicked ſhall rot: So this is my teſtimony on the behalf of that valiant man, who counted not his life dear to himſelf, that he might finiſh his courſe with joy.

And now dear Friends and Brethren, whom the Lord hath called in this the day of his mighty Power, and hath made you partakers of his Divine nature, and hath cauſed the windowes of Heaven to open, and hath ſhoured down of the vertue of his life upon you, and ye who have often felt the ſweet influences of the Fathers love unto your ſouls; be not over much troubled at this our loſs, but feel his life among you, for affliction cometh not out of the duſt, neither doth trouble ſpring out of the ground, yet man is born to trouble, as the ſpark fly upward, as ſaith Job, but the Lord is the ſupport and deliverer of the Righteous; and he is their preſent help in the needful time, who brings them to their expected end in peace, as he hath this our friend, in a good age, like as a ſhock of Corn cometh in, in it's ſea on.

And now ye children of the Lord, born of the ſame birth, wait ye for the ſtreamings forth of the Lords love into all your ſouls, that you may be as channels, or as water courſes, through which the Lord cauſeth the water of life to run, that you may not only be comforted in your ſelves, but may have wherewithal to comfort others; keep in the tenderneſs and love one to another, as children of one Father; all ſucking at the ſame breſts of Conſolation, by which the Lords people in all ages were conſolated, that ye may grow up together as trees of Righteouſneſs, the planting of the Lord, that a bleſſing in his hand ye may be, and by his living power, to the end ye may be preſerved, to the glory and to the praiſe of the Lord: This as a teſtimony for that ſervant of the Lord *J. S.* whom I dearly loved, with a ſhort Salutation of love, to the children of the firſt born,

The 7th of the 2d. Month, 1664.

By one who ſuffers for the ſame Teſtimony, for which our Brother layed down his life; Priſoner in the Town Gaol of Ipſwich *in* Suffolk, *your Friend*

THOMAS GREEN.

FINIS.